RECEIVED BY CALLE 1 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General 2005 AUG -5 PM 3: 28 of the State of California 2 JENNIFER S. CADY, State Bar No. 100437 Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 4 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2442 5 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 6 Attorneys for Complainant 7 **BEFORE THE** BOARD OF PHARMACY 8 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2771 10 S & S VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY OAH No. L-2005030160 11 d.b.a.. VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY, STELLA ROYTMAN, President STIPULATED SURRENDER OF 12 NEIL STEPNER, Pharmacist-in-Charge, LICENSE AND ORDER AS TO 8349 Reseda Blvd., Ste. B RESPONDENT NEIL A. STEPNER 13 Northridge, CA 91325 (PHARMACIST LICENSE NO. RPH 23460) ONLY 14 Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45565 15 and 16 NEIL A. STEPNER 439 S. Oakwood Dr., #6 17 Beverly Hills, CA 90212 18 Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460 19 Respondent. 20 21 22 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this 23 proceeding that the following matters are true: 24 **PARTIES** 25 1. Patricia F. Harris (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of 26 Pharmacy. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter 27 by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by Jennifer S. Cady, Supervising 28 Deputy Attorney General.

- 2. Respondent Neil A. Stepner (Respondent Stepner) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Bryan C. Altman, whose address is 1880 Century Park East, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90067.
- 2. On or about November 30, 2001, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45565 to S & S Valley Homecare Pharmacy d.b.a. Valley Homecare Pharmacy, Stella Roytman, President (Respondent Pharmacy). Neil Stepner was the Pharmacist-in-Charge from November 30, 2001 through November 12, 2003. The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2771; Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45565 expired on November 1, 2004 and has not been renewed.
- 4. On or about May 13, 1964, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460 to Neil A. Stepner (Respondent Stepner). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to Charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2005, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

5. Accusation No. 2771 was filed before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 16, 2004. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2771 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2771. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of

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subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2771, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 11. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460 without further process.

CONTINGENCY

Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 13. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the (Board) may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460, issued to Respondent NEIL A. STEPNER is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Pharmacy.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Pharmacist in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board both his wall and pocket license certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. Respondent may not reapply for any license, permit, or registration from the Board for three (3) years from the effective date of this decision.
- 5. Respondent understands and agrees that if he ever applies for licensure or petitions for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a new application for licensure. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for licensure in effect at the time the application or petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 2771 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the application or petition.
- 6. Should Respondent ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other heath care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 2771 shall be deemed

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1	to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any				
2	other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.				
3	7. Respondent stipulates that should he apply for any license, permit or				
4	registration from the Board on or after the effective date of this decision, the investigation and				
5	enforcement costs in the amount of \$1,500.00 shall be paid to the Board prior to issuance of the				
6	new license, permit or registration.				
7	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>				
8	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and				
9	have fully discussed it with my attorney, Bryan C. Altman. I understand the stipulation and the				
10	effect it will have on my Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460. I enter into this Stipulated				
11	Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound				
12	by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.				
13	DATED:				
14					
15	NEIL A. STEPNER				
16	Respondent				
17					
18	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent NEIL A. STEPNER the terms				
19	and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I				
20	approve its form and content.				
21	DATED:				
22					
23	BRYAN C. ALTMAN				
24	Attorney for Respondent				
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to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

7, Respondent stipulates that should be apply for any lucense, permit or registration from the Board on or after the effective date of this decision, the investigation and enforcement costs in the amount of \$1,500.00 shall be paid to the Board prior to issuance of the new license, permit or registration.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrencer of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Bryan C. Altman. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

Stepner

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent NEIL A. STEPNER the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Sustender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED:

y for Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: July 19, 2005.

BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General

of the State of California

JEMNIFER S. CADY / Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm DOJ\ Docket\ Number/Matter\ ID:\ 03583110\text{-}LA2004600701} \\ {\rm step-set.12} \end{array}$

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2771
S & S VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY D.B.A. VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY, STELLA ROYTMAN, NEIL STEPNER 8349 Reseda Blvd., Ste. B Northridge, CA 91325	OAH No. L-2005030160
Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45565	
and	
NEIL A. STEPNER 439 S. Oakwood Dr., #6 Beverly Hills, CA 90212	
Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460	
Respondent	t.
DECISION A	AND ORDER
The attached Stipulated Settlemen	nt and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by
the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consume	er Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.
This Decision shall become effec	tive on October 6, 2005
It is so ORDERED September	r 6, 2005
DEPART	OF PHARMACY MENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF CALIFORNIA
	TANLEY W. GOLDENBERG oard President

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1 2 3 4 5	of the State of California JENNIFER S. CADY, State Bar No. 100437 Supervising Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702			
6	Attorneys for Complainant	•		
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8	BEFORE 'BOARD OF PH	ARMACY		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAL			
10	Tree than Mattern a Callan American	L. G. N. Goda		
11 12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: S & S VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY	Case No. 2771		
13	d.b.a. VALLEY HOMECARE PHARMACY STELLA ROYTMAN, President	ACCUSATION		
14	NEIL STEPNER, Pharmacist-in-Charge			
15 16	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45565	·		
17	and			
18	NEIL A. STEPNER 439 S. Oakwood Dr., #6 Beverly Hills, CA 90212			
19	Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460			
20 21	Respondents.			
22	Complainant alleges:			
23	<u>PARTIES</u>	<u>S</u>		
24	1. Patricia F. Harris (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in he official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consu			
25				
26	Affairs.			
27	2. On or about November 30, 200	01, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy		
28	Permit No. PHY 45565 to S & S Valley Homecare Pl	harmacy, d.b.a. Valley Homecare Pharmacy,		

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Stella Roytman, President. (Respondent Pharmacy). Neil Stepner has been the Pharmacist-in-Charge since November 30, 2001. The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on November 1, 2004, unless renewed.

3. On or about May 13, 1964, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License No. RPH 23460 to Neil A. Stepner (Respondent Stepner). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2005, unless renewed.

<u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 4300 permits the Board to take disciplinary action to suspend or revoke a license or permit.
 - 6. Section 118, subdivision (b) states:

"The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground."

7. Section 4301 states, in pertinent part:

"The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

15. Section 125.3, subdivision (a), states, in pertinent part:

"Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department . . . the board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case."

16. <u>CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/DANGEROUS DRUGS</u>

- a. "Clonazepam," is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(7) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to section 4022 of the Code
- b. "Phenergan with Codeine," a brand name for Promethazine with Codeine, is a Schedule V controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11058(c)(1) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to section 4022 of the Code.
- c. "Serostim," a brand name for generic Somatropin, is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- d. "Tylenol with Codeine #3" and "Tylenol with Codeine #4," a brand name for generic Codeine with Acetaminophen (30 mg. Codeine for #3, 60 mg. Codeine for #4), is a Schedule III controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11056(e)(2) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to section 4022 of the Code.
- e. "Valium," a brand name for Diazepam, a benzodiazepam derivative, is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(9) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to section 4022 of the Code.
- f. "Vicodin," a brand name for generic Hydrocodone with Acetaminophen is a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 11056, subdivision (e)(4), and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to defined by Business and Professions Code section 4022.

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Verify and Document Legitimacy of, and Excessive

Furnishing of, Controlled Substance Prescriptions)

17. Respondent Stepner is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4301(d), (j), and (o), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that from on or about and between November 11, 2002, and May 1, 2003, Respondent Stepner, filled prescriptions for controlled substances for patients without verifying and documenting that the prescriptions were for legitimate medical purposes, and/or which were clearly excessive, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11153, as follows:

a.	Patient Sharon W.		
	11/11/02	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets
	01/13/03	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets
	04/23/03	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7:5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets
b.	Patient Quinten B.		
	11/13/02	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Diazepam, 10 mg.	100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets
c.	Patient Patricia S.		•
	05/01/03	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Diazepam, 10 mg.	100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets
d.	Patient Kevin H.		
	10/31/02	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets
	12/27/03	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Diazepam, 10 mg.	100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets

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2 3	• 01/28/03		Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Diazepam, 10 mg. Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 10-500mg Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets 480	
4		02/26/03	Hydrocodone/APAP 10-500mg	100 tablets	
5			Diazepam, 10 mg. Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets	
6			Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg Codeine/APAP 60-300mg	480 100 tablets	
7		04/25/03	Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets	
8			Diazepam, 10 mg. Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	100 tablets 480	
9			Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 10-500mg	100 tablets 100 tablets	
10					
11	e.	Patient James C.			
12	• .	11/13/02	Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	480	
13			Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets 100 tablets	
14		04/25/03	Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	480	
15			Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Diazepam, 10 mg.	100 tablets 100 tablets 100 tablets	
16	f.	Patient Jimmie B.	1 , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	100 tablets	
17		12/02/02	Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	400	
18		12, 02, 02	Clonazepam, 2mg	480 100 tablets	
19		01/02/02	Codeine/APAP 30-300mg	45 tablets	
20		01/03/03	Clonazepam, 2mg Promethazine/Codeine, 6.25/10mg	100 tablets 480	
21		00/02/02	Codeine/APAP 30-300mg,	45 tablets	
22		02/03/03	Promethazine/Codeine, 6.25/10mg Codeine/APAP 30-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	480 45 tablets 100 tablets	
23		03/05/03	Codeine/APAP 30-300mg		
24			Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg Clonazepam, 2mg,	45 tablets 480 100 tablets	
25		04/07/03	Clonazepam, 2mg	100 tablets	
26			Codeine/APAP 30-300mg Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	45 tablets 480	
27			0.25/10mg	100	
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	ii .	,						
1	g.	Patient Eldin B.						
3		01/22/03	Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Codeine/APAP 60-300mg	100 tablets 100 tablets				
4		03/03/03	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg Diazepam, 10 mg.	100 tablets 100 tablets 60 tablets				
5	11	04/09/03	Promethazine/Codeine 6.25/10mg	480				
6	13	- ,, v.s., v.g.	Codeine/APAP 60-300mg Diazepam, 5 mg.	100 tablets 60 tablets				
7			Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-750mg	100 tablets				
8		SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE						
9	(Failure to Maintain Current Inventory for All Dangerous Drugs)							
10	18. Respondent Stepner and Respondent Pharmacy are subject to disciplinary							
11	action pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 4301(j) and (o), for violation of							
12	Business and Professions Code section 4081(a) and (b), and of California Code of Regulations,							
13	title 16, section 1718, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that from on or about and							
15	between July 1,	between July 1, 2001, and September 18, 2003, Respondent Pharmacy had a shortage of						
16	approximately 864 boxes of Serostim 6mg., for which Respondents Stepner and Pharmacy failed							
17	to keep a curren	to keep a current inventory to include complete accountability for all dangerous drugs, including						
18	Serostim.	-						
19		<u>PRAYER</u>						
20	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein							
21	alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:							
22	1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy License Number PHY 45565, issued to							
23	S & S Valley Homecare Pharmacy, d.b.a. Valley Homecare Pharmacy, Stella Roytman,							
24	President.							
25	2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 23460, issued							
26	to Neil A. Stepner.							
27	3. Ordering S & S Valley Homecare Pharmacy, d.b.a. Valley Homecare							
28	Pharmacy, Stella Roytman, President, and Neil A. Stepner to pay the Board of Pharmacy the							

	reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and						
:	Professions Code section 125.3;						
;	3 4. Taki	ng such other	and further ac	ction as deemed	necessary ar	ıd proper.	
4	4 DATED: 11 04				·	• •	
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7	7		T. YYA RICIA F. HA		-		
8	8	Exec Boar	cutive Officer rd of Pharma	t cy			
9	9	Depa State	artment of Co of California	cy onsumer Affairs a			
10		Com	plainant	•			
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